

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of dissolving carbon nanotubes, ~~characterized in that it comprises the~~ comprising

(i) providing reduction of nanotubes, which results in negatively charged nanotubes with positive counterions by reducing carbon nanotubes; and

(ii) adding a polar organic solvent to the negatively charged nanotubes of step (i), resulting in a dissolved phase of negatively charged nanotubes with positive counterions in the solvent.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the counterions are alkali metal cations.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of providing negatively charged nanotubes comprises adding ~~characterized in that it includes the addition, under anaerobic conditions, to the nanotubes of a salt of formula:~~



to the carbon nanotubes, wherein ~~in which:~~

~~[[-]]~~ A^+ represents a cation of an alkali metal ion, ~~such as lithium or sodium;~~
and

~~[[-]]~~ B^- represents an anion of a polyaromatic compound,
so as to electrically charge the nanotubes.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the polyaromatic compound is chosen from naphthalene,

benzophenone, fluorenone and anthraquinone.

5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 1, wherein~~ characterized in that the polar organic solvent is ~~solvents are chosen from~~ sulfolane, dimethyl sulfoxide, dimethylformamide, N-methylpyrrolidone ~~[[and]]or~~ N-methylformamide.

6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 1,~~ ~~wherein~~ characterized in that the carbon nanotubes contain boron atoms in place of ~~as a~~ substitute for carbon atoms.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 1, wherein~~ characterized in that the carbon nanotubes ~~used~~ are single-walled nanotubes.

8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 1, characterized in~~ that ~~wherein~~ the carbon nanotubes ~~used~~ are multi-walled nanotubes.

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 7, wherein~~ characterized in that the carbon nanotubes ~~used~~ are hollow ~~empty~~ nanotubes.

10. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 7, wherein~~ characterized in that the carbon nanotubes ~~used~~ contain molecules, ~~for example~~ ~~photosensitive molecules or fullerenes,~~ salts, ~~such as alkali metal halides,~~ or ~~else~~ metal elements inside their hollow interior.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 1, further~~ comprising ~~characterized in that it further includes~~ a step of purifying the nanotubes.

12. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 1, further~~ comprising ~~characterized in that it further includes~~ a step of functionalizing the surface

or the ends of the nanotubes.

Claims 13-15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A method of dissolving carbon nanotubes comprising

(i) providing reduced, negatively charged nanotubes with positive counterions by reducing carbon nanotubes; and

(ii) adding a polar organic solvent to the negatively charged nanotubes of step (i), resulting in a dissolved phase of negatively charged nanotubes with positive counterions in the solvent.